President.—That is not what Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar asks. At the time of admission certain privileges are allowed to the depressed classes. If a student during his school career becomes a convert those privileges are continued. How many students are there of that type? That is what he asks.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The number will vary, Sir. It can only be a very small number because the total amount comes to only two or three hundred rupees.

President.—We should not penalise them for that.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Very much is made of this little thing. In Travancore for instance every depressed class convert is given all the concessions enjoyed by depressed classes. Hence very many of these people have been petitioning us pointing out the practice in Travancore.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Will the Government give this concession, if he is converted into Muhammadanism or any other religion? I suppose you would give him the same dole. Even if he becomes a Brahmin you will do it.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is there any one who is converted into a religion other than Christianity?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—There are very many.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In your wide experience of about 30 or 35 years, have you ever known a Pulaya becoming a Brahmin? My Hon'ble friend made a suggestion like that. Such statements ought not to be made in this House.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is there a single Pulaya student who became a Muslim after joining the school?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I cannot say positively. But the great majority of them are converted into Christianity.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I do not press the motion.

The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 5.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,08,600 for Uplift of Depressed Classes.*

The motion was not moved, and hence it was considered withdrawn.

President.—The question before the House is that Demand No. XXXI—Uplift of the Depressed Classes Rs. 1,08,600 be voted by the House.

Demand put and agreed to.

25. XXIII—Uplift of the Depressed Classes—Cranganur—Rs. 2,500.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Sir, I rise to move for a

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grant of Rs. 2,500 for the uplift of the depressed classes in Cranganur. I do not think any explanation is necesssry.

Demand put and agreed to.

26. XXI—Medical—Rs. 2,74,746.

President.—The next Demand is XXI—Medical.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Sir, I rise to move the House for a grant of Rs. 2,74,746 under XXI—Medical. In presenting the medical budget before this House I have always felt myself like Daniel before the den of lions. But witnessing as you do the great amenities which the medical service afford the sick population of the state I hope you will not have any hesitation in passing the demand. Sir, in the budget presented now there is an increase of 33,000 compared with the revised budget of the present year, which you will observe is evidently due to the growing development and expansion of the Medical Department which must necessarily entail increased expenditure. If you refer to page 11 of the printed budget you will observe that under receipts the net income derived by this department shows an unprecedented figure due to the income derived from the much criticised departments of the General Hospital, namely, the X-Ray and the Pay Wards. The X-Ray during the year has produced a revenue of Rs. 2,000 and the Pay Wards during the four months that it has been in operation has produced a net income of Rs. 1,090. This is a special feature unprecedented in medical budgets of past years. I do not wish to encroach upon the time of the House with any preliminary explanation of the figures because in the total cuts before us we have to dis-suss, I think, every aspect of the budget and the administration of the department will be threshed out. I shall be most glad to explain to the House if any elucidation of the figures is necessary.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know for information when this House criticised about the Pay Wards?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It has been much criticised, very much criticised indeed!

Dr. A. G. Menon.—No word was uttered about the Pay Wards. Only we criticised the expenditure for the large building and not about the establishment of the Pay Wards.

President.—You may remember that the Government came in for a grant of Rs. 40,000 and only Rs. 20,000 was voted by the House.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I may say for the information of the House that it was at our suggestion that the Pay Ward was opened.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—That is quite true.

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